

ABSTRACT

Systems and methods are provided that enhance the utility of a household's TV to facilitate communication between members of the household through a central messaging system. The messaging system includes a TV and a remote control with a touch sensitive panel area on which a user can stroke characters or sketches using a stylus, finger and the like. The remote control is capable of performing character recognition if necessary, and transmitting the characters and/or simple sketches over an IR beam to the TV. The TV then uses its OSD graphical control system to display the characters and sketches. In operation, an operator is able to retrieve and/or draft messages. Once retrieved, the messages can be replied to, stored in non-volatile memory or erased.